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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)			
	10/578,491	LANG ET AL.			
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit			
	LaToya Louis	3771			
The MAILING DATE of this communication app Period for Reply	pears on the cover sheet with the c	orrespondence address			
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DA - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period v - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tim vill apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from a cause the application to become ABANDONE	lely filed the mailing date of this communication. (35 U.S.C. § 133).			
Status					
1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>03 Fermann</u> 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL . 2b) ☐ This 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allower closed in accordance with the practice under Endower End	action is non-final. nce except for formal matters, pro				
Disposition of Claims					
4) Claim(s) 33,34 and 36-91 is/are pending in the 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdray 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 33, 34, 36-91 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examine 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) access Applicant may not request that any objection to the	vn from consideration. r election requirement. r. epted or b) □ objected to by the E				
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).					
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.					
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.					
Attachment(s) 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date	4) Interview Summary Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal P 6) Other:	ite			

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to amendment filed 2/3/2010. As directed by the amendment, claims 33 and 52 have been amended and claims 67-91 have been added. Thus claims 33, 34, and 36-91 are currently pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/3/2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- 3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
 The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
- 4. Claims 33, 34, 36-51, 65, 66, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 33, the phrase "in particular" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Regarding claim 59, the limitation "the one or more function components" lacks antecedent basis.

Claims 34, 36-51, 65, and 66 are rejected for their dependency on a rejected claim.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 6. Claims 33, 34, 36-44, 47-58, 60-62, 64-72, and 74-91 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenyon (6,216,691) in view of Kuehn (6,837,260).

Regarding claims 33 and 65, Kenyon teaches in figs. 1 and 10 a CPAP device, having a delivery device (13) for delivering the respiratory gas at a pressure level that is above the ambient pressure, a housing device (18), for receiving the delivery device, and an air-conduction structure (20) for conducting the respiratory gas from the delivery device to an outlet region, wherein the air-conduction structure is embodied as a molded foam part made from a foamed material (col. 2, lines 38-44, lines 53-56) that is subdivided into a first portion (93) and a second portion (94) that each include a recess that cooperate to form the walls that define an air carrying conduit (91) (col. 6, lines 7-9), and a coupling cuff recess (the indentations adjacent coupling 38) formed in the molded foam part, the coupling shoulder recess receiving a coupling cuff (38) coupled to the respiratory gas delivery device, the coupling cuff disposed between the respiratory gas delivery device and an outlet line (i.e. 36 or region/chamber adjacent 91 as outlet line).

Kenyon discloses including a protrusion from the body for the control panel (col. 6 lines 60-64) but does not specifically disclose that the protrusion is located on the top of the body such that the circuit board is disposed above the second portion of the molded foam part. However,

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Keuhn teaches a circuit board located above the second part (34) (col. 4 lines 25-35 disclose that the circuit board could be located on posts 59 or area 60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to locate the circuit board on the top of the housing/above the second part to provide easier access for a user.

Regarding claim 52, Kenyon teaches in figs. 6 and 10 a CPAP device, comprising a core module (50,90) and an outer module provided for receiving the core module (col. 5 lines 54-57 discloses a housing as outer module for receiving the core module), wherein the outer module includes a housing with a top (col. 5 lines 54-57 disclose a cover plate as top) and the core module includes a foam body (col. 5, line 13), the foam body furnishing the CPAP device with sound absorbing properties (col. 2, lines 53-56); the foam body including a first portion (52,93) disposed in a first horizontal plane and a second portion (74,94) disposed in a second horizontal plane, the first portion being vertically offset compared to the second portion (As shown for figs. 6 and 10, the second portion is in an upper horizontal plane and is located above and on top of a major section of the first portion which is located in a lower horizontal plane), the first portion having a recess (22) for receiving a respiratory gas delivery device (13).

Kenyon teaches that the circuit board protrudes from the body (col. 6 lines 60-64) and that the housing receives the body with a cover plate (col. 5 lines 54-60). The modified Kenyon teaches from col. 4 lines 25-35 of Kuehn a circuit board disposed above the second horizontal plane. Thus the circuit board protruding from the second/top horizontal plane of the body would lie between the second portion of the foam body and the top of the housing.

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Regarding claim 87, Kenyon teaches a foam body (50,90) disposed in the housing and having at least one portion that is molded (the foam body is shaped into the form shown in figs. 6, 10 and is thus molded), the foam body having a first horizontal surface (the top surface of the foam body 90) and a second horizontal surface (the surface of part 93 being covered by foam part 94), the first horizontal surface being vertically and laterally offset from the second horizontal surface, the second horizontal surface receiving at least one functional component (i.e. 91), and a vertical wall (the wall formed at the interface between insert 94 and body 93) formed in the foam body separating the first and second horizontal surfaces, the vertical wall and the first horizontal surface being positioned between the second horizontal surface and the outlet of the housing (As shown, the vertical wall is between the second horizontal surface and the top surface of the body 90 such that the vertical wall and top of the foam body 90 s positioned between the lower horizontal surface covered by insert 94 and the outlet of the housing which is adjacent or above outlet 96).

Kenyon does not specifically teach the first horizontal surface receiving a sensor device and a circuit board. However, Keuhn teaches the first/top surface receiving a sensor device and circuit board (col. 4 lines 25-35, col. 5 lines 20-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to locate the circuit board on the top of the housing/above the second part to provide easier access for a user and to provide the sensor to provide better monitoring of the device and patient.

Regarding claim 34, Kenyon teaches that the molded foam part defines air-carrying conduits (91).

Regarding claim 36, Kenyon discloses the air-conduction structure is embodied such that it forms a sound absorption path (col. 3, lines 25-27).

Regarding claim 37, Kenyon teaches that a sound absorption path (i.e. 91) is formed upon the cooperation of a first portion (93) of the foam molded part with a second portion (94) of the foam molded part (col. 6, lines 6-10).

Regarding claim 38, Kenyon discloses that a sound absorption path (91) is formed in some portions by a first portion (93) of the foam molded part and in some portions by a second portion (94) of the foam molded part (col. 6, lines 6-10).

Regarding claim 39, Kenyon discloses a support structure for bracing the molded foam part (col. 3, lines 46-48).

Regarding claim 40, Kenyon discloses that the molded foam part is detachably coupled to the support structures (col. 3, lines 35-36).

Regarding claim 42, Kenyon teaches that the molded foam part defines a receiving portion (22) to elastically and resiliently receiving the delivery device (13) (col. 4, lines 45-47).

Regarding claims 43 and 79, Kenyon teaches that the receiving portion (22) is embodied such that the delivery device (13) is received in it without play, with a slight press fit (col. 4, lines 45-49).

Regarding claim 45, Kenyon discloses that a portion of the molded foam part forms a filter device (col. 5, lines 51-52).

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Regarding claim 46, Kenyon discloses that a filter device is coupled to the molded foam body (col. 5, lines 51-52).

Regarding claims 47 and 81, Kenyon discloses that the molded foam body forms a portion (72) to stand on (col. 5, lines 30-33).

Regarding claim 48, Kenyon discloses that the housing device forms a receiving jacket and is placed onto the molded foam part (col. 5, lines 54-57).

Regarding claim 49, Kenyon teaches in fig. 5 that at least some of the air-conduction conduits (66) are formed by an outer surface region of the molded foam part (col. 5, lines 25-31).

Regarding claim 50, Kenyon teaches in fig. 10 that the sound absorption path (91) has a multiply winding course (col. 6, lines 7-9).

Regarding claim 51, Kenyon teaches in fig. 11 that the inner wall of the conduit (70), which surrounds the sound absorption path and is formed by the foam body or a coating provided on it, is provided with sound absorbing profile sections (col. 6, lines 25-29).

Regarding claim 53, Kenyon teaches that the respiratory gas delivery device (13) is embedded in the foam body (50) (col. 4, lines 45-47).

Regarding claim 54, Kenyon discloses that the foam body is embodied in multiple parts (col. 3, lines 2-4).

Regarding claim 55, Kenyon discloses that function components are inserted into the foam body (col. 3, lines 44-46).

Regarding claim 56, Kenyon teaches that the conduction structure components (38) are inserted into the foam body (col.4, lines 61-64) (fig. 1).

Regarding claim 57, Kenyon teaches in fig. 1 that the conduction structure component is embodied as a breathing hose connection structure component (38) (col. 4, lines 61-64).

Regarding claim 58, Kenyon teaches that the foam body (50) forms a securing device (col. 4, lines 45-47) for suspending the delivery device (13) (col. 5, lines 30-35).

Regarding claims 61 and 72 Kenyon discloses that the function component is a control unit (col. 6, lines 60-62).

Regarding claims 41 and 64, Kenyon discloses the claimed device but does not disclose wherein the foam part is injection molded. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to produce the molded foam parts using injection molding since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPO 416.

Regarding claims 44, 67, and 80 Kenyon teaches that the fist portion and second portion have different material properties (col. 6 lines 17-20 disclose locating a block 104 in the first portion of different material properties. Thus the first portion will have different properties than the second portion).

Regarding claims 60 and 74 Kenyon discloses the claimed invention except for the function component is a sensor device for pressure and/or volumetric flow. However, Kuehn teaches a sensor device for pressure and flow (col. 5 lines 20-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the body of Kenyon with the sensors as taught by Kuehn to provide greater monitoring capability.

Regarding claim 62, Kenyon discloses the claimed invention except for a valve device. However Kuehn teaches a valve device (72, 74). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the body of Kenyon with the valve device as taught by Kuehn to provide greater control of flow to a patient.

Regarding claim 66, Kenyon teaches from fig. 10 that the conduit wall is divided along a plane that is parallel to a vertical axis of the conduit and the first and second portions interface with one another along said plane.

Regarding claims 68, 77, and 88 Kenyon discloses that the foam body is an open cell foam body (col. 4 lines 25-26).

Regarding claims 89 and 91, Kenyon teaches that a diameter of the coupling cuff recess is greater than a diameter of an adjoining portion (i.e. 25) of the foam body (As shown in figs. 1 and 2, the indentation that receives the coupling cuff 38 is larger than the channel 25 due to the wall which cradles the channel 25 but ends before the coupling cuff recess).

Regarding claim 90, the coupling cuff including a pair of flanges (the upper protrusions of coupling 38) with a recessed portion there between (As shown in fig. 1, the coupling cuff includes two raised portions with an indented portion there between), at least one of the pair of flanges abutting the shoulder of the coupling cuff recess (As shown in fig. 2, the flange abuts an upper ledge of the recess).

Regarding claim 69, Kenyon teaches from figs. 6 and 10 A CPAP device, comprising: a respiratory gas delivery device (13) to deliver respiratory gas at a pressure level that is above ambient pressure, the respiratory gas delivery device (13) including an outlet portion (20)

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extending laterally from a body of the respiratory gas delivery device, a foam body (50, 90) having at least one portion that is molded (col. 4 lines 50-53 disclose that the foam body is shaped, formed into a shape, as molded. See also col. 6 line 37), the foam body having a first portion (i.e. 93) disposed in a first horizontal plane and a second portion (94) disposed in a second horizontal plane, the first horizontal plane being vertically offset from the second horizontal plane (As shown, the second portion 94 lies above the bottom foam section of the first portion 93), the first portion having a first recess (22, 25) that receives the respiratory gas delivery device (13) and the outlet portion (22), the first portion having a coupling cuff recess (the indented space which receives the coupling cuff 38 as coupling cuff recess located downstream of the recess 25) positioned adjacent the first recess, the coupling cuff recess including a shoulder (the top ledge adjacent the recess 25 as shoulder most clearly seen in fig. 2) extending substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the outlet portion, a coupling cuff (38; fig. 1) connected to the outlet portion (20) of the respiratory gas delivery device, the coupling cuff including a pair of flanges (the upper protrusions of coupling 38) with a recessed portion there between (As shown in fig. 1, the coupling cuff includes two raised portions with an indented portion there between), at least one of the pair of flanges abutting the shoulder of the coupling cuff recess (As shown in fig. 2, the flange abuts an upper ledge of the recess) and a connection coupling component (i.e. 40) downstream of the coupling cuff such that the coupling cuff (38) is positioned between the respiratory gas delivery device (13) and the connection coupling component (As shown, the coupling cuff is fluidly located between the respiratory device 13 and the outlet 40).

Kenyon discloses including a protrusion from the body for the control panel (col. 6 lines 60-64) but does not specifically disclose that the protrusion is located on the top of the body such that the circuit board is disposed above the second portion of the molded foam part. However, Keuhn teaches a circuit board located above the second part (34) (col. 4 lines 25-35 disclose that the circuit board could be located on posts 59 or area 60 disposed above the second horizontal plane. Thus the circuit board protruding from the second/top horizontal plane of the body would lie between the second portion of the foam body and the top of the housing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to locate the circuit board on the top of the housing/above the second part to provide easier access for a user. The modified Kenyon teaches from col. 4 lines 25-35 of Kuehn a circuit board

Kenyon discloses a connection coupling (40) but does not specifically disclose the connection coupling component being provided with at least one sensor port or connection connected to at least one sensor to sense flow and/or pressure of the respiratory gas flowing through the connection coupling component. However, Kuehn teaches a sensor port for flow and pressure measurement of the respiratory gas (col. 5 lines 20-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the body of Kenyon with the sensors as taught by Kuehn to provide greater monitoring capability.

Regarding claim 70, the modified Kenyon teaches from col. 4 lines 30-35 of Keuhn that the circuit board is supported by the second portion.

Regarding claim 71, Kenyon teaches from fig. 10 that the connection coupling component is supported by the first portion of the foam body (As shown, the first portion is

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located underneath the second portion and thus supports the weight of the second portion including the coupling 40).

Regarding claim 75, the modified Kenyon teaches from fig. 1 of Keuhn that the connection coupling component (i.e. 50) includes a pressure measuring connection component having first and second ends, the first end being a pressure measuring hose connection for connecting to a pressure measuring hose, and the second end being a pressure measuring port connected to a pressure sensor (col. 5 lines 28-50).

Regarding claim 76, the modified Kenyon discloses that the at least one sensor comprises a flow sensor to sense a flow of the respiratory gas flowing through the connection coupling component (col. 5 line 20-30).

Regarding claim 82, Kenyon teaches in fig. 10 a CPAP device comprising: a respiratory gas delivery device (13) to deliver respiratory gas at a pressure level that is above ambient pressure, a housing (col.3 lines 36-40, col. 4 lines 50-58) having an inlet and an outlet (It is inherent that the housing includes an inlet to allow intake of air by the generator 13 and an outlet to connect with outlet 40 for delivery of gas to a patient) a foam body (50, 90) within the housing, the foam body including a first foam body (52, 93) having a top surface, the top surface of the first foam body having a first recess (22) formed therein that receives the respiratory gas delivery device (13), and the top surface of the first foam body having a second recess (i.e. 25) that receives and supports at least one other component, and a second foam body (74, 94) formed separately from the first foam body, the second foam body having a top surface and a bottom surface, the second foam body including a third recess (i.e. 96) formed in the top surface, wherein the first and second foam bodies cooperate to at least partially encapsulate the

respiratory gas delivery device (figs. 6 and 10), and the top surface of the first foam body is disposed in a common horizontal plane with the bottom surface of the second foam body (As shown in fig. 10, the top surface of the section of the first foam body 93 which is covered by the second portion 94 is in the same horizontal plane as the bottom surface of the second foam body 94).

Kenyon discloses an outlet 98 but does not specifically disclose that the outlet of the housing is positioned to extend through a vertical side wall of the housing. However, Kuehn teaches from figs. 1 and 2 an outlet (50a) which extends through ha vertical side wall of the housing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the housing of Kenyon to include the outlet in a vertical side wall as taught by Keuhn to provide an outlet closer to a patient and more accessible. In addition such a modification would involve mere rearrangement of parts and is within the level of an artisan's skill.

Regarding claim 83, Kenyon teaches that the at least one other component includes an outlet portion (20) of the respiratory gas delivery device, and a coupling cuff (38) connected to the outlet portion.

Regarding claim 84, Kenyon discloses that at least a portion of the foam body is molded (col. 6 lines 36-40).

Regarding claim 85, Kenyon teaches that the second recess (25) includes an outlet portion (22) recess and a coupling cuff recess (see the recess adjacent the coupling cuff 38 in fig. 2) including a shoulder extending (a top ledge of the side of the recess) substantially

perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the outlet portion (As shown in fig. 2, the shoulder extends to touch a side of the coupling cuff perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the cuff).

Regarding claim 86, Kenyon teaches a connection coupling component (i.e. 40) downstream of the coupling cuff such that the coupling cuff is fluidly positioned between the respiratory gas delivery device and the connection coupling, the connection coupling component (40) being supported by the first foam body (As shown in fig. 10, the first foam body is under the second foam body and thus supports the i.e. weight of the component 40) at a position that is laterally offset from the first recess. The modified Kenyon teaches from fig. 1 of Kuehn that the i.e. 50a is adjacent the outlet of the housing.

7. Claims 44, 59, 63, 67, 73, and 80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenyon in view of Kuehn, as applied to claims 33, 52, and 69 above, and further in view of McCombs (7,156,903).

Regarding claims 44, 67, and 80 Kenyon discloses the claimed invention except for the first portion of the molded foam part and the second portion of the molded foam part having different material properties. McCombs teaches a sound enclosure device characterized in that the first portion of the molded part and the second portion of the molded part have different material properties (column 3, lines 22-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the foam parts of Kenyon to include different material properties as taught by McCombs in order to provide the advantage of more protection in specific areas.

Regarding claims 59 and 73, Kenyon discloses the claimed invention except for wherein a further function component is a power pack. McCombs teaches sound enclosure device wherein a further function component is a power pack, in the form of a battery (column 5, line 55) (fig. 4e). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Kenyon to include a power pack as taught by McCombs in order to provide the advantage of allowing the device to be used without an external power supply.

Regarding claim 63, Kenyon discloses the claimed invention except for wherein a further function component is a switch device. McCombs teaches a device wherein a further function component is a switch device (30) (column 2, lines 47-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Kenyon to include a switch device as taught by McCombs in order to provide the advantage of allowing the device to be controlled by an operator.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 33, 34, and 36-91 have been considered but are most in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kenyon et al (6,397,841) discloses a foam modular housing.

Klopp et al. (2002/0056453 discloses a blowing device foam insulated.

Finnegan et al. (2002/0134378) discloses a sound dampening housing.

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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to LaToya Louis whose telephone number is (571) 270-5337. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Justine Yu can be reached on 571-272-4835. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

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information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/LaToya Louis/

Examiner, Art Unit 3771

10/21/2010

/Patricia Bianco/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3772